

REMARKS

Accompanying this amendment is a request for a two-month extension of time in which to respond to the office action along with a check in the amount of the required government fee.

Claim 1 has been amended to overcome the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. paragraph 112. Claim 11 and claim 19 also rejected under Section 112 have been cancelled. The Examiner says in the office action that claim 12 states that "the pockets end flush with an upper end section of the vertical arm and stiffen the side parts over their entire height" and rejected this claim under Section 112 as being inconsistent with the claim from which it depended. However, it is believed that the Examiner was referring to claim 13 rather than claim 12, because claim 13 and not claim 12 contains this language. In any event, claim 13 has been cancelled in this amendment so it is believed that all of the objections under 35 U.S.C. Section 112 have been corrected. In addition, to facilitate prosecution and allowance of this application, claim 6 has also been cancelled. A new claim 21 has been submitted for the Examiner's consideration.

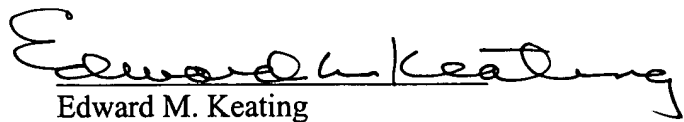
A reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection of claim 1, 5, 12 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bandy, Jr. et al., U.S. patent number 5,131,724 is requested. Applicant does not agree with the Examiner's statement in Section 2 of the claim rejection on page 3, that a lower case flange arm extends outwardly to the rear in Bandy, Jr., et al. Also, claim 1 has been amended to call for side and top profiles which are exchangeably welded on to the vertical arms adjacent the machine track. This is not shown in Bandy, Jr. et al. It is believed that the amendment of the claims have rendered the rejection under Section 102 as no longer applicable.

It is also believed that the amendments to claim 1 clearly overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103 based on Bandy, Jr. et al., in view of Bandy, U.S. patent number 6,401,912. The side and top profiles 16 and 17 called for in claim 1 and its dependent claims are different than merely making parts integral or separate. The provision of these exchangeably weldable parts allow them to be replaced without the necessity of replacing the whole pan. This is different than making a single part replaceable because the claim calls for both side and top profiles which are exchangeably to be welded onto the vertical arms.

It also should be noted that newly submitted claim 21 distinguishes from the references cited by the Examiner in also calling for the side and top profiles which are exchangeably welded onto vertical arms adjacent the machine track 20 to be supported in steps 18 and 19 formed in the vertical arms shown in Fig. 1. None of the references cited by the Examiner show the use of replaceable side and top profiles which are supported in steps formed in the vertical arms. It is believed that since amended claim 1 is allowable, that the claims dependent on it, namely 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14 and 15 are also allowable as is newly submitted independent claim 21.

Therefore, it is believed that the application, with the claims as shown in the new claim sheet, is in condition for allowance and such action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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